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MARRIAGE CONTRACTS OF THE OPELOUSAS POST  
1766 - 1803

Translated and abstracted by  
Jacqueline O. Vidrine  
and  
Winston De Ville

MARRIAGE CONTRACTS OF THE OPELOUSAS POST  
1766 - 1803

With an introduction by  
John C. L. Andreassen, Director  
State Archives and Records Commission

and a brief history of the Opelousas Post by  
Edwin A. Davis, Ph. D.  
Head, Department of History, Louisiana State University  
Founder and First Head of the Department of Archives,  
Louisiana State University

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1960



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NEW ORLEANS TERRITORY, 1804.

1729805

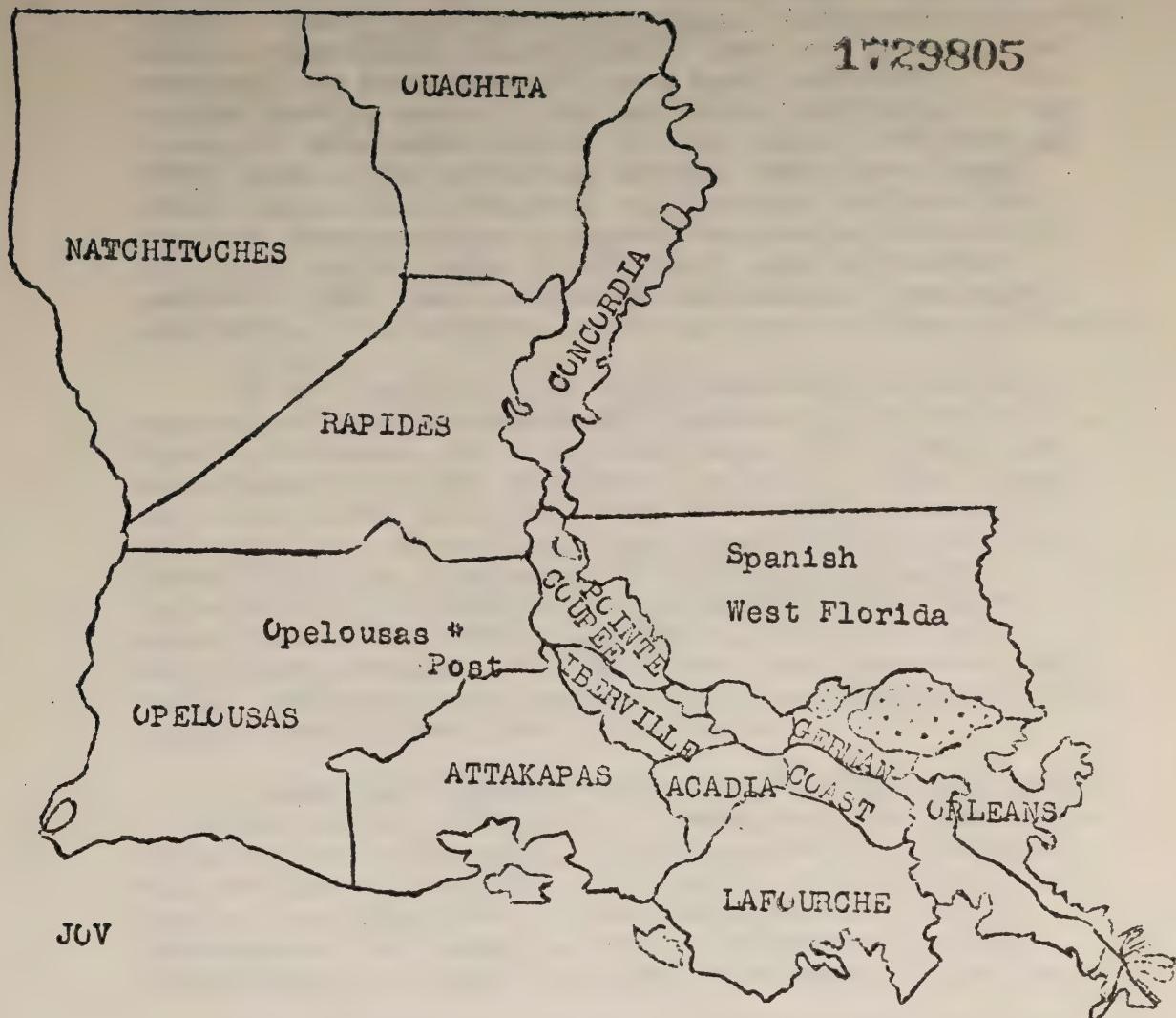
MARRIAGE CONTRACTS OF THE OPELOUSAS POST  
1766 - 1803

the twelve original counties, each including the  
respective areas of jurisdiction of an early post.

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and  
Winston De Ville



NEW ORLEANS TERRITORY, 1804



The twelve original counties, each including the approximate area of jurisdiction of an early post.



## FOREWORD

This is, as far as we know, the first serious attempt to put order in the chaos of records in the archives of one of Louisiana's earliest important posts - the Poste des Opelousas. Although this manuscript represents only a small part of the archival records, we feel that it is a real beginning. Included herein are all the marriage contracts in the formerly unindexed papers of the years 1766 through 1803, and a few certified copies that have found their ways into libraries and private collections. Most of them are the original documents; others are official copies made during that same historical period. This publication is composed of translated abstracts; the original records were written in French.

We are grateful for help received: training in historical and genealogical research given by Mrs. L. Austin Fontenot, Jr., of Opelousas, Louisiana; the assistance with the glossary, by Mr. A. Otis Hebert, Jr., Associate Editor of the Louisiana Historical Association publication, Louisiana History, and Dr. Hosea Phillips, Professor of Foreign Languages, University of Southwestern Louisiana; and the co-operation of Mr. Henry Lastrapes, Clerk of Court, St. Landry Parish. Our families, too, deserve gratitude. Without their patience and encouragement, this project would have been impossible.

A deep and sincere "thank you" is due Dr. Edwin A. Davis and Mr. John C. L. Andreassen for their invaluable contributions. They deserve the thanks of all who love Louisiana - Dr. Davis, because he has been a true champion of Louisiana history, and Mr. Andreassen, for being as true a champion for the preservation of the historical archives of the land.

Our work, begun in April of 1959, has reached the stage where we can share it with others. Now all our time can be put on the study of the other old chronicles of history in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse. Work has already begun. In subsequent volumes, there will be one major change: instead of grouping the documents according to type (i.e., successions, land sales, etc.) they will be arranged chronologically, thus forming a continuous record of the ancient settlement during the colonial period.

Winston De Ville

Jacqueline O. Vidrine

Ville Platte  
August, 1960



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## INTRODUCTION

It is good to find and to note the growing interest in the public records of the Colony of Louisiana, Orleans Territory, of our State, and of its communities, which seems to be developing at last, and which this publication illustrates. There is much more to be done in St. Landry and in the twenty-nine other parishes which have colonial and territorial records. A statewide program of action for the better protection of these records and for better service of them, is carefully outlined in the Louisiana Archives Survey Report No. 2, Findings and Recommendations, p.20, May, 1956. Until that program is initiated, these translated abstracts will provide clear indication of the rich resource for local historical research and writing which are still with us. Let us hope that the example set here by Winston De Ville and Jacqueline Olivier Vidrine will cause others throughout the State to search out these source materials and to use them in reconstructing the story of civilization in these areas.

John C. L. Andreassen

Baton Rouge  
August 1960



## "OLD IMPERIAL SAINT LANDRY"

"Old Imperial Saint Landry" is one of the most fabulous names in all the broad and dramatic expanse of Louisiana history. It is a name that conjures up long forgotten memories of the still older districts of the Opelousas and the Atakapas, of the entire region of southwest Louisiana, with its French, Spanish, Acadian, and American heritage, whose sons have fought in all America's wars beginning with the Revolution and who have labored with stubborn and tenacious purpose to create what has been called "the Eden of Louisiana." Other areas within the present state have their historically fabulous past - Pointe Coupee, Fort Miro, Natchitoches, Les Rapides, the Felicianas, the German Coast, Bayou La Fourche, New Orleans - but none surpass that of the section which during the years of French domination was generally called simply the Atakapas Country.

No one knows definitely when the first French settler began permanent residence in the country, but according to legend and the dim records of the middle 1700's it was sometime after the Opelousas Indians and their allies practically exterminated the Atakapas tribes in a great battle fought some few miles west of present-day St. Martinville. It is fairly certain that a few Indian traders had more-or-less fixed habitations in the north-eastern corner of



the region for several years prior to the granting of the Louisiana colony to Spain in 1762. During the governorship of Kerlerec (1757) mention is made of a number of French Canadians and French who settled along the upper Teche, and shortly after Spain acquired the colony a few Acadians and other French opened trading posts and established small farms along the bayous.

In the fall of 1769, Spanish Governor Alejandro O'Reilly ordered Captain Don Eduardo Nugent and Lieutenant Don Juan Kelly to lead an expedition to the Atakapas, Opelousas, Natchitoches, and El Rapido districts and to report on the number and character of the inhabitants, their settlement, and their live-stock possessions. In their report the two officers wrote glowingly of the region: "The land between the estates consists of spacious prairies covered with admirable grazing of very high and slender grass which is free from thistle and thorn, etc . . . . Hence the inhabitants maintain everything imaginable in the way of live stock, such as cows, horses, and sheep. . . . The products raised at present are rice, corn, and sweet potatoes. . . . The inhabitants are not indolent and among them there are some industrious Acadians, who already have a good start to an establishment which promises to be very useful in the lines of agriculture and cattle-raising.



These people live in great tranquility and accord, are law-abiding, and are well satisfied with the present administration and the kindness of the Government." Near the end of the report the officers wrote that the Acadians were very industrious and that their women "also work hard; from cotton they make very good cloth for their clothes. They also manufacture stockings and finer cloth like that made from flax."

The total population of the area, according to Nugent and Kelly, was a few over 500 persons, including 148 slaves. The inhabitants of the Opelousas district owned over 2400 cattle, nearly 650 horses, nearly 700 hogs, approximately 200 sheep, 38 goats, 12 mules, and 3 "donkeys," while those of the Atakapas section possessed over 1300 cattle, nearly 270 horses, 565 hogs, and 18 sheep, but had no mules, "donkeys," or goats. By 1799 the Atakapas and Opelousas districts had a total population of over 12,000.

It is generally believed that Jacques Courtableau was the first commandant of "El Poste de Opelousas" and of the district then comprising the whole of southwest Louisiana; it is certain that he was a "capitaine" of the Opelousas area. He was succeeded by Gabriel Fusilier de la Claire, who by 1772 was considered one of the richest men of the area in lands, herds, and slaves. Other distin-



guished commandants or military officials of the district during the Spanish years included Alexandre de Clouet, Nicolas Forstall, Etienne Robert de la Morandiere, and Martin Duralde. By the time of the purchase of Louisiana by the United States there were Spanish, French Creole, Acadian and American families in various sections of the region.

During the first session of the Territorial Legislative Council in 1804-05, by an act approved April 10, 1805, "Old Imperial Saint Landry" was divided into two counties, Opelousas and Atakapas, the act stipulating that "the County of Opelousas shall comprehend the Parish of Saint Landry, commonly called the parish of Opelousas." Two years later when the Territory of Orleans was divided into nineteen parishes, the act stated that "the Parish of Saint Landry in the Opelousas, shall form the eighteenth." Since that time the parishes of Evangeline, Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia and Cameron, have been carved from the original parish.

The "golden" years of the ante bellum period saw the development of plantations, stock farms, and even ranches. At the beginning of the period William Darby wrote that "few spots on the globe of an equal extent, exhibit more diversity of sur-



face, or a greater variety of soil and vegetable production, than does Opelousas. . . . The settlements begin on the alluvion of the Courtableau, Boeuf, and Teche; but are numerous, and compact, on the region contiguous to the above, but within the prairie tract. The land in both these sections is excellent, timber abundant, and very large. The staples of Opelousas, at this time, are cotton, cattle, hides, tallow, cheese, beef, and pork. . . . Perhaps some individuals could however be found in Opelousas, who unite more than ever what was done elsewhere: the three natural stages of man's progress, hunting, tending their flocks, and ploughing the glebe." By 1860, according to the census reports, the parish of Opelousas," which by this time had had Calcasieu carved from it, was the third most populous parish in the state, ranking only behind Orleans and Rapides. In that year the total population was 23,104, including 10,703 whites, 965 free negroes, and 11,436 slaves.

The War for Southern Independence came and such outfits as the Opelousas Rifles, St. Landry Light Guards, St. Landry Volunteers, St. Landry Grays, and St. Landry Partisan Rangers marched off to war. While no important engagements were fought in the parish, Opelousas and other sections were occupied for short periods by Union forces. During the Period of



Military Occupation which followed the war and which lasted until 1877, the people of the parish proved a very stubborn group with which the Radical carpet baggers, scalawags, and Negroes had to deal, and on more than one occasion they proved their loyalty to the Southern ideals and the Southern way of life. During the presidential election of 1868, for example, they did not give U. S. Grant a single vote, registering all their 4, 787 votes for Horatio Seymour, the Democratic candidate.

Gilbert L. Dupre later wrote that when the men of St. Landry returned from "the tear-stained hills" of Virginia, "they had their paroles in their breast pockets. They accepted defeat, but they never understood that to mean that their slaves should rule over them. The first attempt, which was the only one in St. Landry, resulted in the carpetbagger being horsewhipped from out the parish; the ring leaders among the negroes promptly arrested and executed. This riot established firmly that, though our soil had been overrun, the spirit of our people was invincible."

The return of home rule to Louisiana and the years since 1877 have witnessed the steady and well-paced growth and development of the old parish of Saint Landry. It sent its sons to the Spanish - American War and to World War I and II. Its agricultural production has grown with the years, be-



cause, as Dupre wrote of its soil, "you tickle it with a hoe and it will smile with a harvest." But the people have been its greatest asset and perhaps Dupre was wholly correct when he wrote: "I love its soil. I love its people. We are cosmopolitan to the core. Originally of French and Acadian descent, the American is now with us. My children are descended from a Connecticut Yankee on the mother's side. That's a good cross. Creole on one side, Yankee on the other. In the crossing of breeds, the best traits predominate in the result."

So throughout the years "Old Imperial Saint Landry" has contributed to the growth and progress of Louisiana, and the words which Gilbert Dupre spoke thirty-five years ago at a meeting of the Louisiana Historical Society in New Orleans are just as true today as they were then: "The old mother, with the breath of a new life dawning upon her, is imperial still."

Edwin Adams Davis

Louisiana State University



## GUIDE TO THE ABSTRACTS

- 1- Misspelled terms and proper names follow the spelling of the original.
- 2- In almost all cases, the proposed marriage has not yet taken place. "Bride" refers to the female party of the contract, and "Groom" refers to the male party. The original uses "future spouse."
- 3- "Before," at the beginning of each contract, introduces the one officiating, before whom the contract was drawn.
- 4- Underlined words are transcriptions from the original and are defined in the Glossary of terms. The glossary includes some archaic forms and dialectic variations.
- 5- Some phrases and paragraphs not relevant to the basic data in the contract were left in French.
- 6- The sequence of words in the documents has not been changed. "Native of" follows the proper name as in the original.
- 7- Although "native of" usually refers to the birthplace of the party, it may refer to his last place of residence, or to the native land of his parents.
- 8- An "X" before a proper name in the signature list means that that person signed by his "ordinary mark."
- 9- When a word or when letters in a word were illegible, dashes were used. Words and question marks enclosed in parentheses were supplied by the translators.
- 10- The number appearing in the lower left corner is the original index number. These are disregarded in the new filing system; records will be filed chronologically, as numbered at the bottom of the page: year-month-day.
- 11- The originals are in the St. Landry Parish Courthouse, with these exceptions: pages 15, 27, and 3<sup>4</sup>, Archives Room, Louisiana State University Library; page 28, Archives Room, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans.
- 12- Unquestionably, there were other marriages contracted during this thirty nine year period. It is the hope of the editors that anyone having originals or copies of Opelousas records will return them so that the gaps may be filled.



February 9, 1766

Amable Beaulieu, son of Giles Beaulieu and Therese La Jeunesse.

Stassie Guenard, daughter of feu Moltye (?) Guenard and Marie Thibaudo.

Accompanied by Joseph Cormier, her cousin germain; Joseph Chretien, Daignau and du Chenne, friends of the groom.

They promise to celebrate their marriage in the church.

Approved by Joseph Chretien and Amable Bertrand dit Beaulieu.

Signed:

X Marie Thibaudo	d agneau
X Joseph Cormier	_____ Ecrivain
X Stassie Guenard	X Amable Beaulieu dit Bertrand
X Joseph Chretien	du chenne  fr: Valentin capi Curé

Not numbered.



July 30, 1771

Noel Soileau, native of the parish of St. Charles,  
 German Coast; son of feu Noel Soileau,  
garde magazin du Roi au fort des Natches;  
 and Marie Joseph Richaume

Angelique Fonteno dit Bellevue, minor daughter of Pierre  
 Fontenot dit Bellevue,  
 resident of Opelousas;  
 and Louise Doucet; native  
 of the fort des Allabamons.

Witnesses for groom: Robert Lamorandiere and Augustin  
 Soileau, his brother and beaufrere.

Witnesses for bride: Pierre Fontenot, her father, and  
 Marie Louise Doucet, her aunt.

Property of groom: slaves @ 3760 livres.

Property of bride: eleven horned cattle, large and small  
 @ 300 livres; a sum of 2264 livres en  
piastres gourdes; a sum of trois cens  
septante six livres given by the groom.

Signed:

Noel Soileau	Boyez signs for Lamanlbay
Fusilier DelaClaire	signs for Pierre Fonteno
Soileau de lamorandiere	Boyez signs for F. Manne
Augustin Soileau	Rober de Lamorandiere
fusilier	Fusilier de la Claire
P. Zeringue	

Note: George King certifies that this is a true copy  
 from the original in his office at Opelousas,  
 June 8, 1810.



May 3, 1777

Before Capne. Commandant pour Le Roy civil et Militaire  
Des Postes Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Jacques Roman, native of la paroisse des Allemands named  
St. Charles; son of feu Jacques Roman and  
Marie Joseph Daigle.

Marie Louise Patin, daughter of Jacques Patin, native of  
Pointe Coupée, and Marie Louise Barré,  
residents of Opelousas.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Bossié and Francois Barré,  
residents of Opelousas.

Witnesses for bride: Antoine Patin, her cousin Germain;  
Jean Baptiste Barré.

Property of groom: four negres @ 250 piastres each; three  
negres @ 250 piastres each; two negres  
@ 400 piastres together; one negre, two  
years old @ 100 piastres; thirty-five  
horses @ 220 piastres.

Property of bride: twenty-seven betes-a-cornes @ 162 piastres;  
one female colt @ 8 piastres.

Signed:

Jacques Roman	Francois Bossié
Mari Louise Barré	Francois Barré
Antoine Patin	J. Bp. barré
X Jacques Patin	Le Chev. De Clouet
X Mary Louise Patin	

no. 39



February 24, 1778

Before Capne. Commandant pour le Roy civile et Militaire  
du Poste des Oppeloussas.

Joseph De la Baume, native of Montpellier, parish of  
Sainte Marie; son of Joseph De la  
Baume and Eliaabeth D'alton.

Marie Kintrek, native of New Orleans, major daughter of  
Jean Joseph Kintrek and Marie le Boeuf;  
widow of Sieur Saintmont and resident of  
this post.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Le Melle and Jacques Patin,  
retired officers of the militia.

Witnesses for bride: Luc Hollier and Latiolais.

Property of groom: land, money, slaves, bistaux, land at  
Nez Pique; together @ 900 piastres.

Property of bride: habitation at Petit Bois, several  
bistaux, slaves; together @ 1200  
piastres.

Signed:

Joseph De la baume

Anne Mari le Kientrek

----- Le Melle

Louis Latiolais

L. hollier

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 26



January 2, 1779

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Commandant Civil et Militaire des Postes des Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Jean Baptiste Cormie, resident of this post, native of Acadia.

Anne Blanchard, resident of this post, native of Acadia.

Witnesses for groom: Joseph Grangé and Pierre Richard,  
parents et amis.

Witnesses for bride: Victor Richard and Victor Cormié,  
parents et amis.

Property of groom: 760 piastres.

Property of bride: 271 piastres and 5 escalins.

Signed:

X J. Bte. Cormier

X Pierre Richard

X Victore Richard

X Joseph Grangé

X Anne Blanchard

X Le Chev. De Clouet

X Joseph Cormié

no. 60



June 15, 1779

Before Capitaine Commandant Civil et Militaire pour  
Le Roy des Postes Attakapas et Opeloussas.

George, Mulatre libre, native of Boston.

Marie Jeanne, Mulatresse libre, born at New Orleans.

"qui (the couple), par defaut de Contrat de  
Marriage lors de leurs establisment con-  
viennent en presence de Messieurs Lemelle et  
Gradenigo . . ."

Signed:

X Marie Jeanne

jorg Bolird

fr. Lemelle

Gradenigo

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 64



June 16, 1779

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Capitaine Commandant Civil et Militaire pour le Roi, le poste des Opelousas.

Francois Marcantel, resident of Opelousas, widower of Dame Soileau.

Perine La Cour, resident of Opelousas, widow of Sieur Roi dit Chatelleron.

Witnesses for groom: De la Morandier and Donato Bello, officers of the Militia.

Witnesses for bride: Loiselle and Frederic.

Property of groom: 1520 piastres.

Property of bride: 8362 piastres.

There was no notary present at the time. The parties drew this contract at the home of the future bride. No one signed. This is the original of two copies.

no. 5



January 16, 1781

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lieutenant Colonel  
et Commandant Civil et Militaire des postes  
Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Antoine Langlois, son of Augustin Langlois and Marie  
Louise Graveline; native of la prairie  
du Rocher poste des Illinois province  
de la Louisiane.

Francoise Carriere, native of New Orleans; daughter of  
Joseph Carriere and Marie Louise  
Lavergne.

Witnesses for groom: Le Melle and Populus, parents et amis.

Witnesses for bride: Gradenig and Clermond, parents et amis.

Property of groom: slaves, cows, horses @ 1470 piastres;  
thirty arpents of land at Placmines  
Brulées, bounded by the land of Comau  
and Bertrand @ 190 piastres.

Property of bride: hardes et effets @ 200 piastres.

Signed:

X Antoine Langlois	Joseph Carriere
X Francoise Carriere	Latiolais
Clermond	X la Caze
Fr. Lemelle	X Dame Vve. la Londe
Joseph Miler	Donato Bello
J Chevalier	Gradenigo
Le Chev. Populus	Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 10

1781-1-16



October 2, 1781

Before Etienne Robert de la Morandiere, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant par interim de Poste des Opeloussas.

Jean George Stelly, native of la paroisse St. Jean des Allemann dans cette province; son of Jean George Stelly and Christine Belmeyer.

Marie Barbe Miller, native of Paroisse Frederic in Maryland; daughter of Jacob Miller and Anne Marie Degin.

Witnesses for groom: Antoine Langlois and Joseph Miller.

Witnesses for bride: Donato Bello, Major officer and sous-lieutenant of the Infantry; and Michel Prud'home.

Property of groom: five arpents of frontage at Grands Coteaux; some land bordered by Francois Stelly, his brother, and Michel Cormier; thirty cows @ 220 piastres; six taures @ 40 piastres; moveables and garderobe @ 100 piastres.

Signed:

X j george Stelly, fils	X Michel Prud'homme
X Marie Barbe Miller	Donato Bello
Jacob Miller	Etienne Robert de la Morandier
Joseph Miller	----- ----- (Miller?)
X Antoine Langlois	Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 35



January 14, 1782

Joachim Ortega, Comisione du Magazen d'artillerie  
de Panzacola.

Madmoiselle Soto de St. Denis, daughter of Marie  
de St. Denis Soto.

The groom receives from Marie de St. Denis Soto "500  
piastres en une Negresse esclave criolle  
nomme Margarite Landu agee de trente deux  
ans et au faite atour ce qu'il faut faire  
dans une Maison en quatre cents cinquante  
piastres et trois vaches douze avec ses  
suivants en cinquante piastres pour entrer  
au Mariage que dans se meme jour il doit  
etre execute et verifie par moi et la dit  
ma future epouse....."

Signed:

Marie de St. denis

Joaquim(n?) Ortega

Noel Soileau

Auguste Soileau

Esteven De Lamorandier

This document is not a true marriage contract, but a  
Reconnaissance.

Not numbered

Done at Apelousas



February 17, 1782

Before Alexandre Chevalier de Clouet, Lieutenant  
Colonel et Commandant Civil et Militaire des Postes  
Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Luke Collins, native of Hampshire County, Virginia; son  
of Luke Collins and Sara White.

Zoe Courtaleau, minor daughter of feu Jacques Courtaleau,  
during his lifetime Capitaine de Milice  
et Commandant par interim of the Opelousas  
Post; and Marguerite Kintrek; native of  
this post.

Witnesses for groom: Luke Collins, his father and mother  
(Luke Collins and Sara White, his  
father and mother); Gradenigo and  
Le Melle.

Witnesses for bride: De La Baume, her tutor; Dame La Baume,  
her aunt; Luc Hollier and his wife,  
the bride's beau-frere and sister.

Property of groom: negre Thomas @ 500 piastres; three  
horses de tire @ 150 piastres; household  
goods for use in a home @ 150 piastres;  
two pieces of land at Natchez of four  
hundred arpents @ 200 piastres.

Property of bride: habitation of eleven arpents de face  
and eighty of depth, ... la  
continuation de 40 accorde par le  
Gouvernement General on which a house  
sur sol of thirty feet in length and  
twenty in width is located, not counting  
the gallery, a magazin fifty feet x  
twenty feet on which is a moulin a Pilons,  
a kitchen of forty feet x fourteen feet  
with its clotures, situated at le Petit  
Bois @ 800 piastres; fifty horned  
animals of all ages and sex, not counting  
the calves de l'année @ 600 piastres;  
two juments and one horse de tire @  
50 piastres.

(continued on next page)



(continued)

Signed:

Luke Collins	X Zoe Courtaleau
Sarah Collins	L. hollier
De La Baume	----- LeMelle
Kientrk la baume	Chas.(?) Percy(?)
Gradenigo	Theo. Collins
Donato Bello	John Collins
Brunet	Sarah Collins
Wm.(?) Collins	Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 37



July 2, 1782

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lieutenant Colonel  
and Commandant of the posts of Attakapas and  
Oppeloussa.

Inventory done in preparation for the marriage of  
Pierre Guillory to Marie Joseph Fontenau.

Appraisers of the property of Pierre Guillory: Michel  
Brignac and Dauguemary de Morand.

PROPERTY -

- 1- three arpents of land situated at Oppeloussas in the quarter called de plaisirance "sur la profondeur ordinaire," having on it one house of poteaux en terre twenty four feet long by twelve feet with a galery(porch) all around "murier chené blanc et couverture en cipie" also un magasin de poteaux en terre sixteen feet long by twelve feet wide entouré de pieux with a field of two arpents @ 200 piastres.
  - 2- three slaves @ 1700 piastres.
  - 3- six cows avec leur suivantes @ 108 piastres.
  - 4- two cows sans suivants @ 30 piastres.
  - 5- one genisse and one taureau of one year @ 12 piastres.
  - 6- four bulls of two years and ten bulls of three years @ 198 piastres.
  - 7- two horses de monture @ 40 piastres.
  - 8- two potres of two years @ 20 piastres.
  - 9- one jument and its suivant and one poulache of one year @ 20 piastres.
  - 10- one charrete @ 12 piastres
  - 11- two hachets, two pairs of scissors, two hoes @ 6 piastres.
  - 12- nine small pigs, male and female, @ 27 piastres.
  - 13- une terre à la prairie des deux Marais of ten arpents of face with ordinary depth @ 50 piastres.
  - 14- debts to Sr. Guillot @ 12 piastres.
- 
- TOTAL: 2435 piastres

Signed:

Dauguemery de Morand      Pierre Guillory

Michel Brignac      Brunet      Donato Bello

no. 39



May 8, 1783

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,  
commandant civile et militaire des postes des  
Attakapas et Oppeloussas.

Louis Dutisné, ancien officier d'infanterie; son of  
feu Louis Dutisne, former captain in  
the service of his very Christian  
Majesty; and Therese Neveu, native of  
Canada.

Rosalie Charlotte Barre, widow of Francois Bossier.

Witnesses for groom: De gruy and Berard.

Witnesses for bride: Ducrest and Roquiny.

Property of groom: 1000 piastres.

Property of bride: as listed in the inventory at the  
death of Sr. Bossier.

Signed:

Charlotte Barre V Bossie

Degrugy

Louis Dutisné

Berard

Ducrest

Le Chev. De Clouet

Roquigny fils



July 4, 1783

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lt. Col., Commandant civil et militaire des postes Attakapas et Apeleosas.

Jean Baptiste Malvot; son of Jean Malvot, native of the parish of St. Pierre de Lande, Diocese de Xaintes; and Jeanne Boucherau.

Perrine Tesson; daughter of Jean Tesson and Marie Desmoulins; native of Opelousas.

Witnesses for groom: Pop-----(Populus?), ancien officier reforme and Antoine Langlois, ses amis au defaut de parens.

Witnesses for bride: Charles La Caze and Olivier Benoit.

Property of groom: four negroes @ 1200; four negresses @ 1200; ninety horned cattle @ 900 piastres; five horses @ 100 piastres; thirty-three arpents of land @ 300 piastres.

Property of bride: Mulatresse, Marie Louise @ 100 piastres; thirty horned cattle @ 300 piastres; two jumens @ 24 piastres; hardes, meubles, et effets @ 300 piastres.

Signed:

Donato Bello	X An. Langlois
Ma / —	X Olivier Benoit
Brunet	Le Chev. Popuuu(Populus?)
X Ferine Tesson	Le Chev. De Clouet
X j. Tesson	
X Dame Desmoulins	

no. 104



July 26, 1783

Before Alexandre Chevalier De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,  
Commandant Civil et Militaire des Postes Attakapas  
et Opeloussas.

Ennemond Meuillon, retired officer of the militia of the  
Pointe Coupée post, now resident of  
this district; native of Moizan; son  
of Ennemond Meuillon and Claudine  
Barrat.

Jeanne Chevalier, native of Kas(Kaskaskia?), Illinois;  
daughter of feu Andre Chevalier, during  
his lifetime garde magazin du Roi in  
Illinois; and Dame le Kintrect; widow of  
Jacques La mothe.

Witnesses: Louis Chachere, Jean Gradenigo, and Joseph  
Modena.

Signed:

J Gradenigo

Jeanne Poiret Meullion

L. Chachere

Joseph Modena

Na. Forstall

no. 11



January 10, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Colonel, Commandant Civil et Militaire des postes Attakapas et Opeloussa.

Laurent Bailly, native of Louisiana; son of feu Joseph Bailly and Marie Barbe.

Marie Louise Barré, native of New Orleans; widow of Sieur Patin; daughter of Paul Barré and Jeanette Girardi.

Witnesses for groom: Pierre Zeringue, Martin Duralde and Luc Hollier.

Witnesses for bride: Charles Barré, Francois Brunet, all residents of this district.

The groom owes the bride 2400 piastres, which is claimable at his death.

Signed:

X Laurent Bailly

L hollier

F Brunet

C Barre

Pierre Zeringue

M l barre v patin

no. 59



April 11, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,  
Commandant Civil et militaire des Postes  
Attakapa et Opeloussas.

Jean Francois Escouffie, major son of Jean Louis  
Escouffie and Elizabeth  
Catherine Pavin; native  
of Marseille in Provence.

Jeanne La Mothe, daughter of feu Jacques la Mothe  
and Jeanne Poiret.

They were previously married in the Catholic Church  
but were not able to make a contract  
until now.

Witnesses for groom: Luc Collins, fils; fr. Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Luc Hollier and Florentin Poiret.

Property of groom: three slaves @ 1500 piastres; one  
plantation @ 300 piastres; ten cows and  
nine horses @ 200 piastres; une -er-e  
avec des a-e-ts @ 300 piastres.

Property of bride: 494 piastres and 6½ escalins from the  
succession of her father; garderobe  
@ 100 piastres; groom owes bride 900  
piastres, which she may collect at  
his death.

Signed:

Jean Francois Escouffie	--. Meullion
Jeanne La mothe	L. hollier
Desbordes hollier	Luke Collins Jr.
f. Brunet	Le Chev. De Clouet
poiret Meullion	

(two copies)  
one copy no. 3



June 14, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel et  
Commandant civil et militaire des postes  
Atakapas et Opelhousas.

Jean Guedris, native of Marilaine in New England; son  
of Jean Baptiste Guedris and Agnes Dupuis.

Marie Magdelaine Brau, native of Assumption Parish at  
the post named la fourche sur le  
fleuve.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Broussard and Silvain  
Broussard.

Witnesses for bride: Joseph Babin and Claude Martin.

Property of groom: seventeen betes-a-cornes @ 170 piastres;  
nine horses @ 90 piastres.

Property of bride: bistaux @ 150 piastres; four arpents  
of land at Vermillon on the grande  
prairie, bounded on one side by her  
father, Firmin Brau, and on the other  
by Joseph Broussard en avant donairie  
@ 90 piastres.

Contracted at the residence of the commandant.

Signed:

X Jean guedris

X Firmain Braut

X Francois Broussard

X Jean Baptiste Broussard

X Claude Martin

Le Chev. De Clouet

X Agnes Braut, future epouse (obviously an error)

X Silvain Braussar

Joseph Babin

Ducrest

no. 60



July 6, 1785

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel Commandant Civil et militaire des Poste Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Jacob Will, native of ingflin in Bavire; son of Jacob Will and Dame Barbare.

Dame Marie Therese, native of Havana.

Witnesses: Fr. Marcantel; Bp. Georgias; Henry Hergeroder and Hoffbauer.

Married: March 28, 1785.

Groom is widow of Elizabeth Estoutz, the issue of the marriage being: Michel, Pierre and Guillaume. The partage of goods was done November 3, 1784.

Property of groom: interest in the succession of his wife.

Property of bride: cattle and money @ 200 piastres.

Signed:

Jacob Will

X Marcantel

Bp. Georgias

X Marie Therese

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 61



July 21, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel,  
Commandant Civil et militaire des Attakapas  
et Opeloussas.

Jean Gallot, native of Bordeaux in Guianne, paroisse de St. Michel; son of Jean Gallot and Marguerite Mazeveila.

Julie, fille naturelle of Marie Jeanne, Carterrone Libre et native aux Allemands sur la fleuve.

Witnesses for groom: Robin Medecin and Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Duralde and Le Melle.

Property of groom: interest in the heritage from his parents, and two horses @ 40 piastres.

Property of bride: ten meres vaches @ 200 piastres; garderobe and other moveables @ 150 piastres.

Signed:

X Jean Gallot

Mn. Duralde

F. Lemelle

X Julie, Carterrone Libre

Robin md

f. Brunet

X Marie Jeanne

Le Chev. De Clouet

no. 69



October 26, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lieut. Colonel,  
Commandant des Postes Opeloussas et Attakapas.

Julien LeSassier, officer of the infantry in the service  
of His Catholic Majesty; son of Charles  
LeSassier and Genevieve Galard; native of  
New Orleans.

Sara Collins, daughter of Luc Collins, Major au Service de  
Troupe Provinciale De La Grand Bretagne dans  
la Province de la Virginie and Sara White;  
twenty years old.

Witnesses for groom: David Lejeune, Jean Gradenigo and  
S(t.) Marc Darby.

Witnesses for bride: Luc Collins pere, Luc Collins fils,  
Theophile Collins; Jean Collins,  
Guillaume Collins and Charles Percy.

Property of groom: 6000 piastres in Negroes and other  
effects of which 2000 piastres belongs  
to his children du premier lit.

Property of bride: one young negre and one young negrinne  
@ 1000 piastres; one cheveau de caleche  
et ses harnois; bed and other moveables  
@ 200 piastres.

Signed:

Julien Lesassier	Charles Percy
Luke Collins	D-. Lejeune
Luke Collins Jr.	Sarah Collins Wight
Theo Collins	Sarah Collins
Jn. Collins	-- Marc Darby
Wll. Collins	Gradenigo
	Le Chev. De Clouet

(continued on next page)



(continued)

Note: The bride forgot to mention land at Bayou Chicot @ 600 piastres. Signed: J. Lesassier, David Lejeune, Sarah Collins, Le Chev. De Clouet.

Note: February 7, 1803, Sara Collins, widow of feu Julien Lesassier, asks for this contract to be filed in the Commandant's office. Signed: Luke Collins; Sarah C. Le Sassier; Jn. Lesassier fils ainé; Theo Collins; Martin Duralde, Capitaine de et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

no. 17



November 5, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Commandant civil  
et militaire des Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Joseph Francoeur, native of Montreal, Canada; son of  
feu Jean Baptiste francoeur and  
Vr-ule Jutra.

Anne Marie Thibaudot, native of Acadia, widow of Francois  
Rivard; daughter of Pierre Thibaudot and Anne Marie Aucoin.

Witnesses for groom: Pierre Manuel and Francois Pitre.

Witnesses for bride: Guillaume Bouley and Pierre Joubert,  
her neighbors and friends.

Signed:

X Veuve Rivard

B O V L E

X Pierre Joubert

X J. francoeur

X fr. Pitre

joseph guenard

Brunet

Le Chev. De Clouet

On cover: Contract of Marriage between Bapte francoeur  
and Dame Ve. Rivard.

no. 44



December 6, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lieutenant Colonel,  
Commandant civil et militaire des Attakapas et  
des Opelousas.

Louis Fontenau, native of Alibamons, province of Louisiana;  
major son of Jean Fontenau and Marie  
Francoise La Grange.

Marie Fontenau, native of Alibamons; daughter of Joseph  
Fontenau and Marie Jeanne Brignac; widow of  
Laurent Dupre dit Terrebonne.

Witnesses for groom: Le Bray de Gonov, et Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Baptiste Fontenau and Escouffié.

Property of groom: 1400 piastres in horned-cattle, horses,  
lumens, and sheep.

Property of bride: 2000 piastres from the estate of her  
deceased husband. The remainder of  
the estate goes to their children: Jacques,  
Laurent, Antoine, and Eugenie

Signed:

L. Fontenot	X Veuve Terrebonne
Lebray De gonov	Es couffié
B fontenot	Le Chev. De Clouet
Brunet	

no. 49

1786-12-6



December 30, 1786

Before Alexandre Chev. De Clouet, Lt. Colonel Commandant Civil et Militaire des Attakapas et Opeloussas.

Nicolas Rousseau, native of la tremblade en Saintonge, major son of feu Pierre Rousseau and Marie (h?)ustel Daniau.

Marie Gradenigo, native of Pensacola, Province of Louisiana, minor daughter of Jean Gradenigo and Marguerite Krebs.

Witnesses for groom: Pierre Rousseau, Captain of the Infantry and Commandant of the Natchitoches post, the groom's brother; and Monsieur Verdalay.

Witnesses for bride: Donato Bello, officer of the infantry and militia; and Martin Duralde, Nc. st (?) en ce poste.

Property of groom: seven slaves of both sexes @ 5000 piastres; four and one half arpents of land and plantation at Natchitoches @ 1500 piastres; land at Attakapas, quartier of Vermillion-twenty-five arpents de face, owned jointly with his said brother, with cattle @ 2000 piastres.

Property of bride: Negritte, Sophie, six years old @ 400 piastres; moveables, effects and garde-robe @ 2000 piastres.

Signed:

N. Rousseau	Mn. Duralde
X Marie Gradenigo	Gradenigo
Pierre Rousseau	X Marguerite Krebs Gradenigo
Donato Bello	Le Chev. De Clouet
Werdalay	



August 1, 1787

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Reginor Perpetuel, Commandant Civil et Militaire des Opeloussas.

Pedro de la Pointe, major son of Jean Baptiste de la Pointe and Barthe Solin(?); native of St. Luc Baramede, Province d'Andalusie.

Marie Josette Caron, minor of Joseph Caron and Francoise Prud'homme; native of parish of I. C. of Opelousas.

Witnesses for groom: Jn. Gradenigo and Joachim Ortega.

Witnesses for bride: Mn. Duralde and Chev. De Villers.

Property of groom: two slaves - Joseph, about 18 years old and Pierre about 16 years old @ 1400 piastres; diverse creances and one-half of a plantation owned jointly with Sr. Ortega @ 600.

Property of bride: eighteen meres-vaches @ 360; six vaches at 90 piastres; seven taures @ 49 piastres; moveables and garderobe @ 1000 piastres.

Signed:

Marie josette Caron	Joachin Ortega
---------------------	----------------

Pedro de la Puente	Gradenigo
--------------------	-----------

X Jh. Caron	-- Villiers, fils
-------------	-------------------

francoise prud homme	Mn. Duralde
----------------------	-------------

	Nas. Forstall
--	---------------

no. 113



January 3, 1788

Before Nas. forstall

Charles Normand (no parents listed)

Perpetue Aucoin, daughter of Claude Aucoin.

Property of groom: valued @ 1118 piastres.

Property of bride: valued @ 500 piastres

(This document is incomplete.)



November 20, 1788

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel, Commandant Civil et Militaire du Poste des Opeloussas.

Claude Aucoin, native of St. Joseph parish, Acadia; son of Joseph Aucoin and Anne Trahan.

Marie Brasseux, native of Ste. Famille parish, Acadia; daughter of Mathieu Brasseux(r?) and Anne Bellemer; widow of feu Olivier Benoit.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Brunet and Jean Gradenigo.

Witnesses for bride: Florentin Poiret and Claude Chabot.

Property of groom: 125 piastres as stated in the inventory made par nous November 10, 1788 of 250 piastres, half of which belongs to his five children by legitimate marriage with his deceased wife, Marie Joseph Saunier.

Property of bride: 213 piastres, which is half of the inventory of the goods of her deceased husband. The inventory was done December 27, 1787.

Signed:

X Claude Aucoin Chabot

f. Brunet Gradenigo

X Dame Ve. Olivier Nas. forstall

f. Poiret

no. 5



December 31, 1788

Before Dr. Nicolas forstall, Régidor Perpetuel, Commandant Civil and militaire du Poste des Opeloussas.

Antoine Nezat, native of Pointe Coupée; minor son of Pierre Nezat and Magdeleine Provost.

Julie Barre, native of Pointe Coupée post; minor daughter of Charles Barre and Magdeleine Decuir.

Witnesses for groom: Martin Duralde and Nicolas Guenard.

Witnesses for bride: Laurent Bailly and Jacques Roman.

Property of groom: 600 piastres in advance on his future inheritance from his parents; various betes-a-cornes @ 200 piastres.

Property of bride: land of twelve arpents de face at la Vieille Vacherie @ 400 piastres; twenty bêtes-a-cornes of all ages @ 200 piastres; furniture and hardes @ 400 piastres. Note - The land is given by her parents in advance on her droits paternel et maternel.

Signed:

X Pierre Nezat

X Julie Barre

X Magne. Provot

X Laurent Bailly

C. Barre

Mn. Duralde

Magdeleine Decuire

J. Roman

Nicolas Guenard

Nas. forstall

X Antoine Nezat

no. 3



May 11, 1789

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel, Commandant civil et militaire du poste des Opeloussas.

Joseph Andre Pont, native of Marseille, parish of Notre Dame des Accoules(?); major son of Pierre Pont and Magdeleine Heimer.

Marie Therese Langlois, native of Opelousas, minor daughter of feu Philipe Langlois and Marie Jeansonne.

Witnesses for groom: Antoine Simian and Jean Ponsony, ses amis a defaut de parens.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Brunet; Nicolas Maton; Jean Baptiste Figuron, her beaupere and tutor and Francois Brunet.

Property of groom: Heritage in the property of his parents.

Property of bride: 195 piastres and 1½ escalins from the heritage of her parents; various cattle with her brand @ 200 piastres.

Signed:

Joseph Andrepon	Nicolas Maton
X Therese Langlois	f. Brunet
X Baptiste figuron	J. Ponsony
X Marie Jeansonne	Nas. forstall
Antoine Simien	



June 8, 1789

Before Don Nicolas forstall, regidor perpetuel, Cmdt.  
civil et Militaire des Opelousas.

George Demarest, native of Pointe Coupee; major son of  
feu Francois Demarets and Catherine Duclot;  
widower of Marie Silvestre.

Marie Francoise Fontenau, native of Opelousas; daughter of  
Pierre Fontenau dit Bellevue, and  
Marie Louise Doucet.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Francois Brunet and Pierre Manuel.

Witnesses for bride: Jean Francois Escouffie and Jacques  
Deshotels.

Property of groom: twenty-odd horned cattle @ 200 piastres;  
horses and jumens and effects proper for  
service of a habitation @ 200 piastres.

Property of bride: eleven horned cattle, large and small  
@ 100 piastres; a sum of 200 piastres.

Signed:

X Pierre Fontenau

X Georges Demaret

X Louise Doucet

X Marie Francoise Fontenau

Pierr Manuel

Jn fr Es Couffie

jacques deshotels

f Brunet

Nas. forstall

no. 113



July 20, 1789

Before Don Nicholas Forstall

Basil Chiasson, native of the parish of Beau Sejour in Acadia; son of Pierre Chiasson and Catherine Bourgeois; widower of Monique Comau.

Anne Marie Thibaudat, native of the parish of Beau Sejour  
in Acadia; daughter of Pierre  
Thibodot and Francoise Saunier;  
widow of Gang Bourg.

Witnesses for groom: Francois Brunet and Ch----Le Brun.

Witnesses for bride: Martin Duralde and Joseph Bourg.

Property of groom: A sum of 545 piastres from the succession of his deceased wife's goods made May 18. The same amount goes to his two children Charles and Adelaide.

Property of bride: A sum of 1454 piastres from the inventory  
of her deceased husband on August 2, 1788.  
The same amount goes to their son, Eloi  
Bourg, a minor.

Signed:

Mn. Duralde	Pierre Thibaudot
Basile Chiasson	Francois Brunet
Joseph Bourque	Nicolas Forstall
Thomas Bring	
X Anne Marie Thibaudot	



June 15, 1790

Before Dr. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel de la Nouvelle Orleans, Commandant Civil et Militaire du Poste des Opeloussas.

Elisée Muissonniere, minor son of feu Jean Baptiste Muissonniere and feue Marie Joseph Savoye; native of Pointe Coupée; under the authority of Joseph Jansonne, his beaufrere and tutor.

Celeste Saunier, minor daughter of Silvain Saunier and Magdelaine Bourg; native of Opelousas.

Property of groom: Negre Augustin, age 25, @ 400; ten betes-a-cornes @ 50 piastres; five chevaux and jumens @ 30 piastres.

Property of bride: ten meres vaches @ 120 piastres; une paire de boeufs domtés @ 30; one cheval domtés and one jument @ 30 piastres; meubles and garderobe @ 200 piastres.

Signed:

X Silvain Saunier	f Brunet
X Elisée Muissonniere	X Dame Silvain Saunier
X Joseph Jansonne	B Lassabe(Lassale?)
X Celeste Saunier	J Chevalier
Basile Chaisson	Nas. forstall
X Charles Comau	

no. 163



1729805

November 25, 1791

Before Dn. Nicolas forstall, Regidor Perpetuel de la Nelle. Orleans, Commandant civil et militaire du Poste des opeloussas.

Pierre Louis fonteneau, native of this post, parish of Immaculate Conception; minor son of feu Joseph Fonteneau dit Bellair, inhabitant of this post while alive, and Marie Jeanne Brignac.

Marie Joubert, minor daughter of Pierre Joubert and Catherine Pitre; native of this post and parish.

Witnesses for groom: Louis Guillory and Francois Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Pitre and Pierre Pitre.

Property of groom: Negre, Charles, from the succession of his father @ 493 piastres and 6 reaux; forty-seven head of cattle @ 175 piastres; eighty betes-a-cornes @ 200 piastres; three cheveaux de selle and five mares @ 80 piastres; five arpents of land de face sur la profondeur ordinaire at la grande Pointe de Mr. Jean Louis fontenot @ 50 piastres.

Property of bride: ten meres vaches given by her parents @ 70 piastres; one cow and two suivants and one horse dompte at 30 piastres; furniture and garderobe @ 120 piastres.

Signed:

X Pierre Joubert

X Louis Fontenot

X Catherine Pitre

X Marie Joubert

X Marie Jeanne Brignac

X Francois Pitre

X Pierre Pitre

louis Guillory

L. Fontenot

f. Brunet

Nas. forstall

no. 122



February 16, 1793

Before Nicolas Forstall, Regidor perpetuel, Commandant civil et militaire du poste des opeloussas.

Francois Fonteneau, native of this post; son of Philipe fonteneau and Marie Brignac.

Therese Jacob Aigle, minor daughter of feu Jacob Aigle and Marton Paquet; born at Mobile, province of Louisiana.

Married: February 12, 1793.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Gradenigo and Louis Reliquet.

Witnesses for bride: stipulates under the authority of Pierre Manuel, her tutor, in the absence of her mother; Philipe Boutté and Louis Chachere.

Property of groom: one hundred boeufs, vaches ou chevaux @ 700 piastres; one plantation of fourteen arpents de face a la prairie vulgairerment appellée "Jose toro" @ 300 piastres;

Property of bride: 200 piastres; other goods @ 100 piastres.

Signed:

X Therese Jacob aigle

X Francois Fonteneau

P. Boutté

Pierre Manuel

J. Gradenigo

Louis Reliquehie

L. Chachere

X Marie Brignac

no. 4



September 6, 1793

Before Dn. Nicolas Forstall, Regidor perpetuel de la Nouvelle Orleans, Commandant civil et militaire des opeloussas.

Henry fonteneau, son of Pierre fonteneau and Louison doucet.

Eugenie Soileau, daughter of Baptiste Soileau and Marie Jeanne de Vidrine.

Witnesses for groom: Authorized by his parents, assisted by Francois escoffie and Jacques fonteneau.

Witnesses for bride: authorized by her parents, assisted by Baptiste de Vidrine and Auguste Soileau.

Property of groom: none

Property of bride: garderobe @ 100 piastres; 200 piastres borrowed by the groom.

Signed:

Auguste Soileau

f.cois Escouffie

D(?) Soileau

X Eugenie Soileau

X Simm. fonteneau

Nas. forstall

X henry foteno

X Bte. Vidrine

(Dated on cover: ...bre. 16, 1794)

no. 19



December 16, 1794

Before Dn. Nicolas Forstall, Regidor perpetuel de la  
Nouvelle Orleans, Command. civil et Militaire des  
Opeluussas.

Ennemond Meuillon, retired officer of the militia of the  
Pointe Coupée post, today resident in  
this district, native of Moizan(?) in  
Dauphine, eveche of Grenoble; son of  
Ennemond Meuillon and Claudine Barrat.

Jeanne Chevalier, native of Kas(?) in Illinois; daughter  
of feu Andre Chevalier, during his life-  
time garde magazin du Roi in Illinois,  
and feu Dame le Kintrect; widow of  
Jacques la mothe.

Witnesses for groom: F. le Melle and F. Brunet.

Witnesses for bride: Joseph Chevalier and Luc Hollier.

Property of groom: Plantation of forty arpents of frontage;  
cattle with HD brand, one hundred  
fifty head; twenty horses; six slaves.

Property of bride: 2158 piastres, half of which is for the  
care of the children of her first marriage.

Signed:

--- Meullion

F. LeMelle

F. Brunet

Jeanne Chevalier ep. du Sr. Meullion

no. 105

(This document is a ratification of the original.)



September 30, 1795

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice and Commandant civil et Militaire.

Pierre Forest, native of St. Malo; major son of Jacques Forest and Marguerite Genevieve Comau.

Marie Francoise Fontenau, widow of feu Pierre Pitre; daughter of Henry Fontenau and Marie Louise Doucet.

Witnesses for groom: Florentin Poiret and Denys Lib..(?)

Witnesses for bride: Jean Gradenigo and Jean Ponsony.

Property of groom: cows and calves; three bulls; one horse, six years old; one jument, four years old; seven moyen cochons.

Property of bride: Future paternal and maternal rights.

The bride declares that by her first marriage with feu Pierre Pitre she had two children: Pierre and Joseph, future heirs of their paternal grandparents.

This contract was done au domicile de la Dame Veuve Pierre Pitre at Opelousas.

Signed:

X Veuve Pierre Pitre	Deni Liberge
X Sieur Fontenau	Jean Gradenigo
X Francois Pitre	f Poiret
-- Ponsony	Pierre forest

no. 68



February 6, 1796

Before Martin (Duralde), Capitaine de milice et commandant militaire des Opeloussas.

Baptiste Meuillon, ----- libre; natural son of Marianne Meui---; major; native of the parish of St. ----- des Allemands.

Celeste Donat Bello, nat--- daughter of Marie Jeanne Donat, mulatresse -----.

Witnesses for groom: Martin Donat Bello, Ge---, Antoine Dubroquas.

Witnesses for bride: Jacques desbor---; ----- Fontenau; Antoine Paillet.

Property of groom: four slaves; 1000 piastres in the hands of Sr. Vivant of New Orleans; Lettres a compte de l'habitation --- lui a vendu sous-sing prive et --- laquelle reside le dt. futur epoux; twelve place-settings of silver with two cuilleres a ragout @ 90 piastres; two lits garnis @ 50 piastres; three chevaux de montures @ 75 piastres; various utensils and movables @ 100 piastres.

Property of bride: eighty betes-a-cornes, large and small marked CF @ --; twenty horses @ 210 piastres; land of twelve arpents @ 60 piastres, situated at Bois de Mallet; 60 piastres gourdes in specie; various movalbes such as one lit garni, bijouteries, and one garderobe @ 300 piastres. The groom adds to her property 400 piastres because of his good and sincere love.

Signed:

Celeste Donato	Mn. Duralde
gorge Bollard	Baptiste Neu---
A. Dubroqua	Mn. Dto.-----
J. B. fontenot	J. Deborde-
	Paillet

no. 178

(This document is in bad repair.)



February 16, 1796

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice, Commandant Civil et Militaire du poste des Opeloussas.

Louis Carriere, son of Jean Carriere and feue Dame Chauffert, native of New Orleans.

Louise Gradenigo, daughter of Jean -----, de Venise and Marguerite (Krebs); native of this post.

Witnesses for groom: Guillome Despau son beau-----; Julien LeSassier Comm----- Milice of this post.

Witnesses for bride: ----- Gradenigo, her father; Augustin Gradenigo; Joseph Bourg.

Property of groom: Three negroes @ 1500 piastres; fifteen arpents of land, bought from Despau @ 150 piastres; 2150 piastres from the heritage of his deceased parents.

Property of bride: One young Mulatresse, about seven years old, @ 200 piastres; garderobe and other moveables @ 200 piastres; groom owes bride 3--- piastres which may be collected at his death.

Signed:

Louis Carrier

J LeSassier

Lize Gradenigo

Jh. Gradenigo

Jean Gradenigo

Mn. Duralde

Gme. Gradenigo

Joseph Bourg

Augistin Gradenigo

no. 10<sup>4</sup> (In bad repair)



February 18, 1797

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Auguste Comeau, native of this parish, minor son of Charles Comeau, of this post; and Anastasie Savoie.

Celeste Sonnier, native of this parish, widow of Elize Missonier; daughter of Sylvain Sonnier and Magdeleine Bourg.

Witnesses for groom: Charles Comeau, his father; Louis Carriere and Jean Gradenigo.

Witnesses for bride: Joseph Bourg, son propre oncle; Ethienne de Lamorandiere fils, Captain of the Militia.

Property of groom: eleven cows and calves @ 88 piastres; four boeufs @ 24 piastres; horses of different ages @ 68 piastres.

Property of bride: one half of the amount of the inventory made at the death of Elize Missonier, her husband, on May 1, 1794. The other part is for her minor children by that marriage: Elize and Emeran Missonier.

Signed:

X Augte. Comeau

L. Carriere

X Veuve Missonier

J. Gradenigo

Estevan De Lamorandier

Charles Comeau

Joseph Bourque

Delamorandier fils

Mn. Duralde

no. 64



July 16, 1797

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Militaire de ce poste.

Jean Baptiste Castille, natif d'Iberville de cette province de la Louisianne, son of feu Joseph Castille and Osic Landry.

Julie Stelly, native of this post, daughter of Francois Stelly and Marie Therese Berthelot.

Witnesses for groom: Osic Landry, his mother; Jacques Roman and Francois Roquigny.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Stelly, her father; Gilbert Amye and Paul Roquigny.

Property of groom: two meres vaches from the succession of his father @ 16 piastres; one lit garni, de la vaisselle and other household goods @ 16 piastres; gift from his mother @ 30 piastres; one arpent de face on both sides of Bayou Tech bounded by Joseph Castille, his brother, and on another side by the land of his mother @ 40 piastres; fifty betes-a-cornes, large and small, including twenty-five Betes cavalines @ 505 piastres; cash @ 150 piastres.

Property of bride: five meres vaches with calves @ 40 piastres; Negro, Louis, age 18, creol @ 600 piastres; one Negresse, Marguerite, about 16 years old, creole @ 500 piastres; five arpents of land to be chosen either at La prairie des femmes or at l'endroit qu'occupe Ms. son pere @ 100 piastres; one bed tout monté @ 25 piastres; forty three betes-a-cornes of all ages @ ---; another sum @ 197 piastres.

Signed:

X Frans. Stelly

julis Stely

Jean Baptiste Castille

f. Roquignie

X Dame Castille

j. Roman

Gillebert Amye

P. Roquigny

Mn. Duralde



August 19, 1797

Before Dn. Julien Lesassier, Capitaine des Grenadiers de la Legion Royale du Micissipi et Commandant par interim de ce poste.

Pierre Richard, widower of Marguerite Dugas.

Izabelle Ocain, widow of Jean Baptiste Le Blanc.

Witnesses: Jean Baptiste Peytavin, Pierre Voisin, Antoine Dubroqua, Jean Henry Lastrapes.

Property of groom: two arpents of land at Cartier de Belle Vue bounded d'en haut by Victor Richard and dans le bas by the children of the said Pierre Richard.

Property of bride: two (four ?) arpents of land bounded by Baptiste Duplechin on one side and on the other by the children of the said Pierre Richard.

Signed:

X Pierre Richard

X Isabelle Ocain

A. Dubroqua

Jn. Baptiste Peytavin

Pierre Voisin

Jn. Hr. Lastrapes

J Lesassier

Note: Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine du Milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

J'atteste que j'ai chargé Monsr. Lesassier Commandant des milices du Commandant par interim pendant le tems de la fabrique d'Indigo, et que tout acte qu'il a passé pendant cet intervalle doit valoir en justice comme ailleurs. Aux Opeloussas, le deux octobre de l'Annee mil sept cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 65



September 25, 1797

Before dn. Julien Lesassier, Capitaine de Grenadier et  
Commandant des milices de ce poste, et mintenant  
chargé de interim.

Antoine Regist, mulatre libre, native of Pointe Coupee.

Genevieve Simon, mulatresse libre, native of Pointe Coupee.

Both parties are more than twenty-five years old.

Witnesses: Baptiste Meullion, mulatre libre, Valerien,  
mulatre libre; Messieurs Joseph Roy, pere et fils.

Property of groom: 312 piastres; two horses and two mares  
@ 65 piastres; one carabine and one  
fusil @ 35 piastres; moveables @ 25 piastres.

Property of bride: 110 piastres; plantation of one and one half arpents de face and forty arpents de profondeur @ 60 piastres; one negresse, Therese, Mandigo de nation, about fifty years old, @ 100 piastres; forty-five betes-a-cornes @ 190 piastres; household effects @ 30 piastres.

Signed:

X Antoine Regist

Bte Meullion

X Genevieve

Joseph Roy fils

Valerien Au--im

Julien Lesassier

Joseph Roy

Note: Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

J'atteste que j'ai chargé monsieur Lesassier Commandant des milices du commandant par interim pendant le temps de la fabrique d'Indigo et que tout acte qu'il a passé pendant cet intervalle doit valoir en justice comme ailleurs. Aux Opeloussas, le deux octobre de l'année mil sept cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 1

no. 14 case



October 20, 1797

Before Julien Lesassier, Commandant des milices du poste  
des opeloussas et maintenant chargé de interim.

Antoine Belar, (on cover: Antne. Belard), inhabitant of  
this district.

Marie fores, Widow of deceased Baptiste Aucoin, her first husband.

Witnesses: luc hollier, Jacques deborde, Joseph Roy, and  
Guillaume Wimbist.

Property of groom: 915 piastres by the inventory of his first wife, and 915 piastres to divide between their four major and four minor children.

Property of bride: 46 piastres (with Mr. Bara of Pointe Coupee), half of which goes to the three children of her first marriage.

Signed:

X Antoine belar

James Wimbish

X Marie fores

J. Debordé

Joseph Roy

L. hollier

Julien Lesassier

Note: Don Martin Duralde Capitaine de milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Je certifie que pour pouvoir vaquer aux interests de mon habitation, et nuire le moins possible a ceux de public par mon absence, J'ai charge du Commandant par interim monsr. dn. Julien Lesassier Commandant des milices de ce poste et que foi doit etre ajoutie a sa signature sur l'acte precedent. Aux Opeloussas le vingt-trois Decembre mil sept cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 67



November 11, 1797

Before Dn. Julien Lesassier, Capne, Commandant des milices des opeloussas, et minterant chargé de l'interim.

Joseph Mayeux, of avoyelles, widower and ..fant de ses droits.

Constance hebert, dit Milan; minor and orphan of feu Philippe hebert, dit Milan, and Elenore Roy.

Witnesses: Mr. Joseph Roy, her uncle, stipulates for the bride. Others are Jacques Deborde and Alexis foltune.

Property of groom: 350 piastres, after the amount given to his children du premier lit, his first wife being Adrienne Bordelon.

Property of bride: 200 piastres, in possession of Antoine Dubroquard her tutor charged with her goods.

Signed:

X Constance hebert dit Milan	J. Deborde
Joseph Roy	Alexis Fulton
Jh. Mayeux	Julien Lesassier

Note: Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Je certifie que pour pouvoir vaquer aux interests de mon habitation, et nuire le moins possible a ceux du public par mon absence, J'ai chargé du Commandant par interim Mons. dn. Julien Lesassier, Commandant des milices de ce poste et que sa signature doit faire foi sur l'acte precedent.  
Aux Opeloussas le vingt trois Decembre, mil sept cens quatre vingt dix-sept.

(Signed) Mn. Duralde

no. 3



September 8, 1798

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Balthazar Marks, widower of Catherine Miller; son of Balthazar Marks and Marianne Gaspar; native of the parish of St. Jean Baptiste sur la rive de Mississippi de la province de la Louisiane.

Marie Jeanne Trahan, widow of feu Joseph Boutin; daughter of Isidore Trahan and Magdeleine Leblanc; native of St. Malo in France.

Minors of the first marriage of the groom: Jean Ste., Catherine, Frosine, Liberte, Simon and Francois.

Witnesses for the groom: Andre Duclot, Francois Robin.

Witnesses for the bride: Berthelemy Dejean and Baptiste Castille.

Property of groom: 1112 piastres and 5 reaux from the inventory of his first wife, done August 1, 1798.

Property of bride: The inventory of her deceased husband was done July 11, 1797; several betes-a-cornes; jumens; a little negrinne, Rosalie, about four and one half years old, born of negresse Charlotte since this marriage with Balthazar Marks.

Signed:

X Balthazar Marks

Robin

Marie Jeanne Trahan

Dejean

Duclot

Jean Bte. Castille

Martin Duralde

no. 3(?)



October 16, 1798

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Louis Lemelle, mulatre ou carteron libre, native of said post, 26 years old, natural son of deceased Francois Lemelle and of Marie Jeanne Lemelle, mulatresse libre.

Celeste Olimpie Grandpres, carteronne libre, native of Pointe Coupee of this province, 17 years old, natural daughter of Charles Grandpres and Jeanette Clapion, free mulatresse.

Witnesses for groom: Marie Jeanne Lemelle, his mother; Messieurs Antoine Dubroquas and Joseph Gradenigo.

Witnesses for bride: Valerien Ozanne, carteron libre, natural brother of the bride, for himself and as representative of their mother, Jeanette Clapion; Jean Gradenigo and Jean Bte. Peytavin.

Property of groom: his rights in the succession of Marie Jeanne Lemelle when she dies.

Property of bride: her garderobe, bed, bijouteries, and other moveable goods @ 900 piastres.

Signed:

Louis Lemelle      Marie Jeanne Lemelle      Joseph Gradenigo

Olimpie Grandpres      A. Dubroqua      Jean Gradenigo

Jn. Bape. Peytavin      Valerien Ozanne      Martin Duralde

(A note signed by George King, Parish Judge, and dated September 11, 1813, states that the foregoing is a correct copy of the original filed in his office.)



March 14, 1799

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Franccis Coulon de Villiers, native of New Orleans; son of Louis Villiers, Capitaine gradue de milice, and Marie Genevieve Fontenette.

Francois Langlois, daughter of Antoine Langlois and Francoise Carriere; native of this post.

The party was married December, 1798.

Witnesses for groom: Louis de Villiers, his father; Joseph Gradenigo, Lieutenant de Dragons de Milice.

Witnesses for bride: Antoine Langlois, her father; Francoise Carriere, her mother; Jean Gradenigo.

Property of groom: a little negre Celestin, creol of this post, ten years old @ 250 piastres; land of four arpents of frontage bounded on one side by Philippe Lacase and on the other by his father; six jumens and one horse @ 30 piastres.

Property of Bride: twelve betes-a-cornes @ 80 piastres; one lit garni and other goods of use @ 20 piastres; 400 piastres in cash.

Extract from "Property of groom" : Item le tiers qu'il soit et qui revient a la dame MarieGenevieve sa mere dans ce moment du restant de la succession de feu Monsr. Jacques Benit Fontenelle son pere dont la dame Marie Genevieve Livaudai sa mere veuve en secondes noce de Monsr. Francois de Villiers Capitaine d'infantrie et chevalier de St. Louis est comptable.

Signed:

X Dame Langlois Coulon de Villiers      Jean Gradenigo

X Antoine Langlois      Louis de Villier

Francois Coulon De Villier      Jh. Gradenigo

Martin Duralde

no. 5



April 20, 1799

Before Dn. Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et  
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Adam Tete, native of Mobile, dependance de cette province;  
son of Adam Tete and Mary hayes.

Marie Louise Fontenot, native of this post; daughter of  
Joseph Fontenot and Magdeleine Tray.

Witnesses for groom: Guillaume Bundik fils and Philippe  
Jean Louis Fontenot.

Witnesses for bride: Jean Gradenigo and Francois Pitre.

Property of groom: one hundred forty betes-a-cornes @  
700 piastres; twelve chevaux et jumens  
@ 240 piastres.

Property of bride: twenty cows and their calves @ 40 piastres;  
The groom gives her the right to 400  
piastres extra to be collected at his  
death and to be counted as though she  
had brought it into the marriage. He  
makes this gift as a mark of his sincere  
and tender love.

Signed:

Adam Tate

X Joseph Fontenot

X Phpe. Jn. Louis Fontenot William Bundick

X Francois Pitre

Jean Gradenigo

X Marie Louise Fontenot

Mn. Duralde

no. 28



June 1, 1799

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Jean Henry Lastrapes, native of Castelnodarry en Languedoc; son of Berthelemy Lastrapes and Laurence Venede.

Genevive Boisdore, native of this post; daughter of feu Antoine Boisdore and Francoise Veillon.

The parties married in the Catholic Church before making this civil contract.

Witnesses for groom: Nicolas Lamathe and Francois Escouffie.

Witnesses for bride: Jean Gradenigo and Berthelemy Dejean.

Property of groom: From his interests with Berthelemy Dejean and Vivant Souliers and Duclot: 5,000 piastres.

Property of bride: none

Signed:

Jn. Hr. Lastrapes	Jean Gradenigo
Dejean	Nicolas Lamathe
f,cois Escouffie	Mn. Duralde
Genevieve Boisdore	

no. 27



June 5, 1799

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et  
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

A la requisition de pere Pierre Zamorra, curé de cette  
paroisse par son office en d'acte d'hier, Deman-  
dant conformément a l'ordre Royal du Roi Charles  
III.

Amable Bertrand, pere, opposes the marriage of his son,  
Amable Bertrand fils, to Angelique Ardoin.

Amable Bertrand pere swore and made the Sign of the Cross  
to tell the truth:

Interrogation:

Name: Amable Bertrand

Religion: Catholique Apostolique et Romain

Age: 63

Native of: Montreal

Did your son ask your permission to marry: yes

How many times did he ask: three, and never received  
consent.

Reason: 'el ne veut pas qu'il se marie avec cette  
fille.'

Age of son: 32 years passée

Signed:

Jean Gradenigo

X Amable Bertrand

Martin Duralde

no. 67

(continued)



The following letter from Father Pedro Zamora to Martin Duralde, written in Spanish, dated June 4, 1799, is found with the foregoing document:

Sir:

I have a royal command from Charles III that if a son is of age and a parent wants to deny the right of inheritance because the son means to be married, the parent must present himself at the Royal Justice Building. Therefore, Mr. Amable Bertrand must present himself there to declare the reasons he has to forbid the marriage of his son.

He will state before witnesses his reasons and then the declaration will be given to me to be sent to the Church Tribunal, where judgement will be rendered.

(Signed) Fr. Pedro de Zamora



May 11, 1800

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et  
Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Manuel Castille, native of Iberville parish, on the river,  
province of Louisiana; son of feu Joseph  
Castille and Osite Landry.

Felicite Stelly, native of this post; daughter of Francois  
Stelly and Marie Therese Berthelot.

Witnesses for groom: His mother stipulates in her name;  
Baptiste Castille, his brother;  
Michel Martin and Paul Roquigny.

Witnesses for bride: Francois Stelly and Marie Therese  
Berthelot stipulate in their names;  
Manuel Grenot and Baptiste Castille.

Property of groom: two trained horses @ 65 piastres; two  
young horses @ 40 piasres; seven jumens  
and autant de croits d'un an @ 110  
piastres; forty betes-a-cornes tant  
grandes que petites @ 200 piastres; one  
arpent of land on both sides of Bayou  
Teche, given by his mother in the  
succession of his father, bounded on one  
side by his mother and on the other by  
Bte. Castille, his -----, situated at  
Attakapas @ 40 piastres; two cows and  
one calf from the succession of his  
father @ 10 piastres; one lit garni from  
the succession of his father @ 20 piastres.

(continued)



(continued from last page)

Property of bride: Twenty -four betes-a-cornes from the succession of her father and mother @ 120 piastres; five cows given by her father as dowry @ 40 piastres; two slaves, Augustin, age 12 or 13, creole of this post, and Magdeleine, age 14, native of this post @ 1100 piastres; five arpents of land at la prairie appellée vulgairement celle des femmes, bounded on one side by Balthazar Marks and on the other by Sieur Stelly, with the ordinary depth of 40 arpents, estimated at 20 piastres for each arpent of frontage @ 100 piastres; one lit tout monté @ 25 piastres.

Signed:

manuel castille

X Osite Landry Castille

Me. these. Berthelot Stelly

Jean Batiste Castille

M Greneaux

Michel Martin

X Felicite Stelly

X Francois Stelly

p. Roquigny

Martin Duralde

no. 40



November 12, 1800

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opelousas.

Godefroi Soileau, native of this post; son of Jean Baptiste Soileau and Marie Jeanne Viderine.

Marie de nieges Fontenot, native of this post; daughter of feu Luc Fontenot and Severine de Soto.

They had gone to the house of the commandant to draw their contract of marriage but found him absent and not expected soon, so they celebrated the marriage in church.

Witnesses for groom: his father; Augustin Gradenigo, his friend.

Witnesses for bride: Louis Fontenot, her uncle; Louis Carriere and Baptiste Janson.

Property of groom: various animals @ 300 piastres.

Property of bride: 418 piastres and 7 reaux, including her part in 493 piastres and 6 reaux from her deceased father Luc Fontenot from the partage of goods of the deceased Joseph Fontenot, his father, after the inventory done -br. 1790, and the partage on July 22, 1791, in which is named four children: Luc, Elie, Marie de Niegues, and Ludevine Fontenot; various animals, some with the brand of Severine de Soto Fontenot.

Signed:

X Severine de Soto Fontenot et Prou(?)

Godefroi Soileau

L. Carriere

X Marie de Neiges Fontenot Soileau

Baptiste Jean Sonne

X Louis Fontenot

B Soileau

Martin Duralde

Autin. Gradenigo

no. 39



December 16, 1800

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Witnesses: dn. Julien Lesassier, Commandant des Milices; Jean Gradenigo, Joseph Distainval, Louis Carriere, Alexandre Payau.

Sylvestre Bossie, resident of Attakapas.

Suzanne Collins, wife of Sylvestre Bossie.

Items: negrillon francois, creol de ce poste about five years old @ 250 piastres; argent effectif monnaie du prince @ 200 piastres; one bed garni @ 40 piastres; goods from the succession of the bride's mother and father, Luc Collins and Zoe Courtableau; one negresse, Dorthee, creole of this post about twelve years old, given by Suzanne Collins(Widow Piercy), her aunt, @ 400 piastres; ten betes-a-cornes @ 40 piastres; two jumens @ 30 piastres.

Signed:

J Lesassier	Destinval
A Payau	Luke Collins
Jean Gradenigo	L. Carriere
Svt. bossie	Martin Duralde

(This document is not a true Marriage Contract, but a Reconnaissance.)

no. 26



September 22, 1801

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Joseph Soniat de Dufossat, Capitaine des milices de la cote au dessous de la Nouvelle Orleans; son of feu Guy Soniat Chevalier de Dufossat, Ancien Capitaine d'infanterie au service de Sa Majeste tres chretienne et Capitaine retire et pensionne du Regiment fixe de la Louisiane, from Dufossat in Cahors, France; and Francoise Claudine Dreux; native of New Orleans and widower of feue Marie Arnoul.

Louise Duralde, native of Opeloussas; daughter of Martin Duralde, the writer of this document, who is a native de Cambo dans la Biscaye francale; and Marie Joseph Louise Perrault, from Quebec, Canada.

Witnesses for groom: Alexandre chevalier Delhomme, Lieutenant des milices; Clair Benoit de Sainte Clair, Lieutenant des dragons des milices; and Balthazar Neuville Declouet, Ensigne des Milices.

Witnesses for bride: Martin Duralde, her father; Marie Joseph Louise Perrault, her mother; Martin and Joseph Duralde, her brothers; Alexandre Declouet, Capitaine des Milices; Jean Gradenigo and Jean Berard.

Property of groom: 5375 piastres and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  reaux, his part in the succession of his defunte wife, from which marriage issued four children. (This section mentions le Marquis de Casa Calvo, Gouverneur militaire de cette province.) The groom also has rights in the heritage from his mother, quand elle(the succession) aura lieu.

Property of bride: Une petite metise, Judith, a domestic, native of Opeloussas and about thirteen years of age @ 700 piastres; a note from her father € 2300 piastres.

(continued)



A copy of this contract is deposited dans un greffe  
in New Orleans.

Signed:

Josef Soniat Dufossat

Lise Duralde Soniat Dufossat

Martin Duralde

Ferrault Duralde

Martin Duralde fils

Joseph Duralde

Jean Berard

Jean Gradenigo

Adre. De Clouet

Alexandre Delhomme

Nle. DeClouet

Claire Benoit De Ste. Clair

no. 19



October 30, 1801

Before Martin Duralde, capitaine de milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opelousas.

Jean Baptiste Figuran, inhabitant of this post, native of Antibes in Provence; widower of feue Marie Jeanson; son of feu Antoine Figuran and Anne Cauvio.

Constance de Beletre, native of Illinois; daughter of Louis Picote de Beletre and Joachim de Villiers.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Gradenigo and Joseph Roy.

Witnesses for bride: Louis Picote de Beletre, her father; Louis Chevalier de Villiers, her uncle; Joseph Distainval.

Property of groom: 7769 piastres and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  reaux, net product of the inventory of his wife, of which his son Jean Baptiste Claude Figuran, will receive 444 piastres and  $4\frac{1}{2}$  reaux.

Property of bride: one caleche @ 45 piastres; the rights in the succession of her parents lors que le cas arrivera.

Signed:

X Jn. Bte. Figuran	X Constance de Beletre
Louis de Villiers	Destinval
Picoté de Belestre	Joseph Roy
Louis Gradenigo	Martin Duralde

no. 21



October 30, 1801

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et  
Commandant civil et Militaire of Opelousas.

Antoine Dupr s, native of this post; son of feu Laurent  
Dupr s and Marie Joseph Fontenau.

Celeste Roy, native of this district, daughter of Joseph  
Roy and Anne Bordelon.

Witnesses for groom: Louis Fontenot, his beaupere, who  
consents for himself and his wife,  
the groom's mother, Marie Joseph  
Fontenot; Sylvestre Bossi ; Seth  
Hanchett.

Witnesses for bride: her parents; Julien Lesassier,  
Commandant of the Militia of this  
post; Jean Gradenigo.

Property of the groom: 500 piastres from the succession  
of his father; one hundred sixty  
head of cattle (from feu Antoine  
Boisdor , his god-father?) @ 800  
piastres; twelve head of betes-  
cavalines @ 250 piastres.

Property of bride: Ten betes-a-cornes @ 50 piastres; other  
goods @ 150 piastres.

Signed:

X Celeste Roy	Joseph Roy
X Antoine Dupr�s	F. Bossi�
L. Fontenot	Seth Hanchett
J. Lesassier	Martin Duralde
Jean Gradenigo	

no. 20



April 2, 1802

Before don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire des Opeloussas.

Witnesses: Jean Gradenigo, Francois Veillon, Francois Ledoux.

Adelaide Ledoux, daughter of the said Francois Ledoux, widow of feu Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot; wife, in second marriage, of Jean Joubert. Issue of first marriage is Zenon Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot.

Signed:

F Le Doux

(Jean Joubert makes his mark, according to the document; but it is not found with the other signatures.)

f. Veillon

Jean Gradenigo

Martin Duralde

On an enclosed document containing items of property for the succession of the deceased Jacques Jean Louis Fontenot dated June 1, 1797, is found:

Signed:

Jean Bte. Roujot  
Grand Pere de la Veuve

X Michel Janisse

X Jean Buraux

(The document is not a true Marriage Contract, but a Reconnaissance.)

no. 11



March 16, 1803

Before Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Martin Donato Bello, fils naturel of feu monsieur Donato Bello, officer of the infantry, and Marie Jeanne Taillefer(?), mulatresse; native of New Orleans.

Marianne Duchesne, fille naturelle of feu Louis Duchesne and Nanette St. Laurent, negresse; native of New Orleans.

They promise to marry in the Catholic Church, after having lived together for some time and reared children.

Marie Anne Duchesne has two children: Auguste Piernas and Marie Louise Allain, issues before her cohabitation with Donato Bello.

Property is estimated by Jacques Dupre and Antoine Paillet.

Witnesses for groom: Jean Gradenigo, Joseph Roi and Valerien Ozenne.

Witnesses for bride: Pierre Carriere, Baptiste Meullion and George Bolard.

The groom swears that the issues of this cohabitation before marriage are: Lucien Martin, Marie Denyse, Marie Louise, Martin Antoine Celestin, Celeste Emelie, and Augustin Donat.

Property of groom: 5000 piastres, some of which is lent out; one hundred fifty bouefs of four years old @ 1200 piastres; one boat and ses agrets neufs @ 500 piastres; one vieille berge @ 100 piastres; land of twenty arpents de face with a profondeur ordinaire on both sides of the coulée de Senneliers situated at Bois de Mallet on which is found a vacherie and house of 22 feet in length by 16 feet in width @ 500 piastres; 450 betes-a-cornes of all ages, male and female, large and small, @ 2250 piastres; 26 chevaux @ 1040 piastres fifty betes cavalines, male and female of all ages @ 750 piastres; his plantation where he resides, consisting of land of about eleven arpents de face and of profodeur ordinaire and one house sur sol

(continued)

1803-3-16



of fifty feet in length, plus porches, one new cotton mill (moulin neuf à coton) plus improvements @ 4700 piastres; one negro, Gregoire of the Bambara nation, about forty years old @ 750 piastres; negre Michel, of the Congo nation, about twenty four years old @ 900 piastres; negre Bauhus, of the Congo nation, about forty years old @ 450 piastres; negresse Agathe, of the Congo nation, about thirty years old, @ 300 piastres; petit negrillion, son of Agathe, named Lubin, creol of this post, about two years old @ 150 piastres; four couverts d'argent and one cuillere d'argent à ragout @ 35 piastres; two charretes à cheval; one charrette à bœuf; two caleches; three charrures dont deux à cheval; household goods @ 180 piastres.

Property of bride: fifty betes-a-cornes, large and small, male and female @ 250 piastres; 100 piastres from her aunt, Marie Castillon also mentions one Nicolas Simon), thirty boeufs @ 240 piastres; four horses @ 160 piastres; ten betes cavalines @ 150 piastres; four couverts d'argent and one cuillere d'argent à ragout @ 35 piastres; 1600 piastres au coin du Mexique.

Signed:

Jean Gradenigo

M. Donato Bello

Joseph Roy

Paillet

V. Auzinne

P. Couviere (?)

George Bolerd

Bte. Meullion

X Marianne Duchesne

Martin Duralde

X Jacques Dupre

no. 111



June 15, 1803

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste.

Thomas Gholson, native of Brunswick county in Virginia; son of Jean Gholson and Fany Tettman; 27 years old.

Sara Lesassier, native of this district; daughter of feu Julien Lesassier, Capitaine des Grenadiers et Commandant des Milices de ce poste; and Sara Collins, veuve Lesassier

Witnesses for groom: Joseph Roy pere and Joseph Roy fils.

Witnesses for bride: Sara Collins, her mother; Theophile Collins and Luc Collins, uncles; Martha Collins, a relative.

Property of groom: negre Philippe, about 22 years old, of Maryland @ 600 piastres; negre Daniel, about 20 years old, of Mariland @ 550 piastres; negre Sanson, about 22 years old, of Pensilvanie @ 500 piastres; negresse Alfa(?), about 18 years old, of Maryland @ 500 piastres; mulatresse Mohaley, about 17 years old @ 455 piastres.

Property of bride: 500 piastres, given by the Widow Lesassier.

Signed:

Sarah Le Sassier

Joseph Roy

Sarah Le Sassier

Theo Collins

Theo Gholson

Murtough Collins

Luke Collins

Martin Duralde

no. 112



July 22, 1803

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice and  
Commandant civil et Militaire de ce poste.

Cornelius Voorhies, native of New Jersey, age 26, son of  
feu Daniel Voorhies and feue Sara  
Gordon.

Aimee Gradenigo, native of this post; daughter of Jean  
Gradenigo and Marguerite Kreps.

Witnesses for groom: Theophile Collins and Robert Taylor.

Witnesses for bride: Augustin Gradenigo, Hilaire  
Gradenigo, Louis Carriere, Francois  
Robin and Jean Jacques Vernin  
D'egrepond.

Property of groom: property in New Jersey, county of  
Sommerset, owned jointly with his  
brothers, Peter and Guillaume Voorhies,  
worth about 1000 piastres.

Property of bride: one hundred betes-à-cornes given by  
her Parain, feu Laurent Bailly, marked:

(3)

© 1000 piastres; a little mulatresse,  
Hortence, about 7 years old, native of  
this post © 300 piastres; other effects  
© 200 piastres.

Signed:

Augtin. gradenigo	Cornelius Voorhies
X Aimee Gradenigo	Jean Gradenigo
Theo. Collins	Robin md
Vernin Daigrepont	Robert Taylor
hilaire Gradenigo	L. Carriere
	Martin Duralde

no. 16



October 21, 1803

Before Don Martin Duralde, Capitaine de Milice et  
Commandant civil et militaire de ce poste et  
de ce lui des Atacapas.

Oliver Clark, of major age; son of Thomas Clark and  
Marie Brooks; a native of la Nouvelle  
York.

Julienne Bridom, widow of feu Michel Stoots; daughter  
of Michel Bridom and Catherine Rey-  
tenauer; native of this colony.

Witnesses for groom: Thomas Hoffpauer and William  
Gilchrist.

Witnesses for bride: Dame Michel Pridom for her husband;  
Michel and Andres Bridom, her bro-  
thers; Pierre Stoots, her beau-  
frere; and Joseph Andrews and  
Murtoough Collins.

Property of groom: note from Sieur Raynaud, marchand a  
Philadelphie, now in the possession  
of Sieur Linx, marchand a la Nouvelle  
Orleans, @ 2200 piastres.

Property of bride: the succession of her late husband  
leaves a sum which must also be used  
for the care of the issues of her  
first marriage: Marie, Michel, Suzanne,  
Celeste, Emelie, Jacob and Valnon Stoots.  
A sum of 200 piastres is mentioned.

Signed:

pour ma seur veuve Michel Stouts Andre Prud'homme	Michel Pridom
Oliver Clark	William Gilcreast
Joseph Andrew	Martin Duralde
Peter Stuts	pour ma maire & pour moy Andre Prud'homme
Murtoough Collins	
Hoffpauer	



Transcription of the Soileau-Fontenot Marriage Contract  
(July 30, 1771)

Par devant nous Commandant des Opeloussas en presence de temoins ci apres nommés et soussignés furent presents en personne Noel Soileau fils Majeur usant ses droits du defunt Mr. Noel Soileau Garde Magasin du Roi au fort des Natches et de dame Marie Joseph Richaume ses pere et mere natif de la Paroisse de St. Charles cote des Allemans province de la Louisianne d'une part et de demoiselle Angelique Fonteno dite Bellevue fille mineure de Pierre Fonteno dit Bellevue habitante des Opeloussas et de Louise Doucet ses Pere et Mere nacquis du fort des Allabamons d'autre part - Le dit Pierre Fonteno stipulant et agissant pour la dite demoiselle mineur de son consentement et son nom. Lesquel partis de leur bon gré et pure volonté et de l'avis de leur Parens et amis ci-apres nommés savoir De la Part du Sr. Soileau des Srs. Robert Lamorandieres et Augustin Soileau ses frere et beaufrere et du coté de la dit demoiselle Angelique Fonteno, du Sr. Pierre Fonteno son Pere et de la dame Marie Louise Doucet sa tante ont fait les traites et accords de mariage qui suivent. Ont promis les futur epouse par nom loi et Sacrement de mariage celui faire celebrier et solemnizer en face de l'Eglise Catholique et Romaine à la premiere requisition de l'un entre eux - La Communauté des futur Epouse sera regie et gouvernée suivant la coutume et les loix d Espagne renoncant toutes autres contraires Quand bien meme cette colonie passeroit sous une autre domination - Ne feront les dits futurs Epouse tenus des dettes l'un de l'autre contractées avant la presente mariage au contraire Elles seront acquittées par celui qui les aura contractées sans que les biens de l'autre en repondent - Se prennent les dits futurs Epoux avec tous leur droits successifs mobiliers et immobiliers echus et a echeoir Ceux du futur Epoux consistent en un negre Creole nommé Joseph sa femme appellée Catherine deux petits negrillons nommés Jean Baptiste et Noel estimés ensemble trois mille sept cens soixante livres dont la dite future Epoux donne la dixième a la dite future - Les droits de la dite future consistent premierement en onze Betes à cornes grands et petits evaluées ensemble trois cens livres Deuxiemement en une somme de deux mille deux cens soixante quatre livres en piastres gourdes que la dite future a amassée par son industrie et ses economies Troisiemement En une somme de trois cens septante six livres provenant du dixième que le futur Epouse lui donne sur le totale du montant de son bien - Toutes ses trois sommes ensemble montant a trois milles livres constitueront les droits De la dite future - Les quelles elle prélèvera en cas de divorce ou de decès du dit futur Epoux - Entendent les dits futur Epoux que le present contract soit homologuées constitueront pour cet effet la personne du Commandant sousigné -



Car ainsi a été traité accordé et convenu Promettant --- Obligeant, Renoncant ---. Fait et Passé a notre habitation le trent de Juillet mil-septante et un En presence du Srs. Pierre Zeringue - Jean Baptiste Soileau - Jean Louis Zeringue - Francois Manne - Laurent Baily temoins requis et demeurant lesquels ont signé en la minute avec les Srs. Lamorandiere, Augustin Soileau - Angelique Fonteno - Pierre Fonteno - Et nous Commandant du district - Noel Soileau, Pour Angelique Fonteno Fusilier DelaClaire - Pour Pierre Fonteno Fusilier DelaClaire Soileau de lamorandiere - Augustin Soileau fusilier — P. Zerengue - Boyez (or Boyer) faits pour Lamanibay Boyez faits pour F. Manne - Rober de Lamorandiere - Fusslier de la Claire.

Parish of Saint Landry to wit: I do hereby certify that the above three Pages are a true Copy from the Original of Record in my Office. In witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and Seal of Office at Opelousas this 8th June 1810. (Signed) Geo King P. Judge

(Translation of the preceding contract)

Before us Commandant of Opelousas in the presence of witnesses hereafter named and undersigned were present in person Noel Soileau, major son and master of his rights of the desceased Mr. Noel Soileau, keeper of the king's storehouse at the Natchez fort, and of Dame Marie Joseph Richaume, his father and mother, native of the parish of St. Charles on the German Coast, province of Louisiana, on one part and of Miss Angelique Fontenot called Bellevue, minor daughter of Pierre Fontenot called Bellevue, inhabitant of Opelousas and of Louise Doucet, her father and mother. . . . born at the fort of Alibamons for the other part. The said Pierre Fontenot stipulates and acts for the said minor girl with his consent and his name. Which parties with their good will and good intention and with the advice of their parents and friends, hereafter named. To wit: on the part of Sr. Soileau, Sieurs Robert Lamorandiere and Augustin Soileau his brother and brother-in-law and on the part of the said Miss Angelique Fontenot, Sr. Pierre Fontenot, her father and Dame Marie Louise Doucet, her aunt, have made the contract and agreement of marriage which follows. The future spouses promise in the name of the Law and Sacrement of Marriage to have the marriage celebrated and solemnized before the Roman Catholic Church at the first request of one to the other. The community of the future spouses will be regulated and governed according to the custom and laws of Spain renouncing all others to the contrary even though this colony should pass to another ruler. The future spouses will not be responsible for one another's debts contracted before marriage - on the contrary they must be settled by the one who contracted them without the possessions of the other



being liable. The said future spouses take all their rights of succession moveable and immovable. Those of the future husband consist of one native-born Negro named Joseph, his wife Catherine and two small Negroes named Jean Baptiste and Noel estimated together at 3 760 livres of which the said future husband gives one-tenth to his said future (wife). The rights of the said future (wife) consist first of 11 horned animals large and small evaluated together at 300 livres; second, one sum of 2.264 livres in piastres gourdes which the said future (wife) amassed by her industry and her economies; third, one sum of 376 livres coming from the tenth part which the future husband gave her on the total amount of his goods. All these three sums together add up to 3,000 livres constituting the rights of the said future (wife) and which she will deduct in case of divorce or of the decease of said future husband. The said future spouses understanding that the present contract will be homologated constitute for that effect the person of the commandant below-signed. For also was managed, agreed, and acknowledged. Done and passed at our habitation the 30 July 1-71 in the presence of Sieurs Pierre Zeringue, Jean Baptiste Soileau, Jean Louis Zeringue, Francois Manne, Laurent Bailly - required resident witnesses who signed in this draft with the Sieurs Lamorandiere, Augustin Soileau, Angelique Fonteno, Pierre Fonteno, and us, Commandant of the district. Noel Soileau for Angelique Fonteno, Fusilier De la Claire for Pierre Fonteno, Fusilier DelaClaire; Soileau de lamorandiere; Augustin Soileau, fusilier; P. Zeringue Boyez for Lamanlby Boyes for F. Manne; Robert De Lamorandiere Fuselier de la Claire.

(Note: The record of the religious ceremony which followed this contract is in the archives at St. Mary's Catholic Church, New Roads, Louisiana, and is dated August 19, 1771. Noel (Etienne) Soileau was commander at the Avoyelles Post from approximately 1783 until 1805. His baptism record in St. Charles Parish states that he was born April 30, 1745.)



## GLOSSARY

These definitions were compiled through the use of reference books and interviews with old French-speaking people of the Opelousas area. Published references include Louisiana-French by Reed, History of Missouri by Houck, Kaskaskia Under the French Regime by Belting, and the Louisiana Historical Quarterlies.

**Agrets(Agrès)neufs:** rigging (of a ship).

**Amis:** friends.

**Ancien officier reformé:** a retired officer; an officer on half-pay; French officer who had been stationed in the Illinois country.

**Argent effectif monnaie du prince:** actual royal coin.

**Arpent:** lineal measure, approximately 192 feet; square measure, approximately .85 of an acre.

**Au défaut:** by default; because of the absence of.

**Au domicile:** at the residence.

**Au fort:** at the fort.

**Autant de croits d'un an:** having the size of a year-old offspring.

**Beau-frère:** brother-in-law; step-brother.

**Beau-père:** father-in-law; step-father.

**Berge(Barque):** barge.

**Betes-a-Cornes:** horned cattle.

**Betes cavalines:** pack horses; inferior horses.

**Bijouteries:** jewelery; ornaments.

**Bistaux(Bestiaux):** cattle; domestic animals.

**Boeufs:** oxen.

**Caleche:** open carriage.

**Capitaine des Grenadiers et Commandant des Milices:**  
Captain of the Grenadiers and Commander of the Militia  
**Capitaine des Milices de la cote au dessous de la Nouvelle Orleans:** Captain of the Militia of the coast below New Orleans.

**Capitaine gradué de Milice:** senior captain of the Militia  
**Carabine:** rifle.

**Carteronne libre:** free octaroon or quadroon.

**Charrete:** cart.

**Charrure(Charrue):** plow.

**Cheval de caleche et ses harnois:** buggy-horse and harness

**Cheval de monture:** riding horse.

**Cheval de selle:** saddle-horse.

**Cloture:** fence or enclosure.

**Coin du Mexique:** Spanish money coined in Mexico.

**Comisione du Magasin d'artillerie de Pensacola:** Commissioner(guardian) of the artillery storehouse of Pensacola.

**Commandant des milices:** commander of the militia.



Cousin germain: first cousin; true or blood cousin.  
 Couvert d'argent: place-setting of silver (plate,  
     knife, fork, spoon.)  
 Couverture en cipe(cyprès): roof of cypress.  
 Creole de ce poste: born at this post.  
 Cuillère à ragout: gravy ladle; serving spoon.

Dans cette province: in this province (Louisiana.)  
 Dans le bas: below; in the lower part; in the basin.  
 Dans un greffe: in a record-office or court.  
 De ce poste: of this post.  
 De face: of frontage.  
 Défunt(e): deceased.  
 De l'année: of the year.  
 D'en haut: from above.  
 De tire: term used to denote a work-animal, as,  
     cheval de tire - work horse.  
 Dit: called; nicknamed.  
 Diverses créances: various credits; various debts.  
 Dompté(Dompté): gentled; tamed.  
 Droits paternel et maternel: right of paternal and  
     maternal inheritance.  
 Du premier lit: of the first marriage.

Effets: effects; household goods; supplies.  
 En avant donairée: will be given before.  
 Enseigne de milice: standard-bearer of the militia.  
 Entouré de pieux: enclosed with stakes.  
 Escalin: money worth about  $12\frac{1}{2}$  cents; one real.

Feu(e): deceased.  
 Fils: son; junior.  
 Fils(Fille) naturel(le): illegitimate child.  
 Fusil: gun

Galerie: wide porch  
 Garde magasin du roi: keeper of the king's storehouse.  
 Garderobe: an armoire or wardrobe.  
 Genisse: heifer.

Habitation: place of residence; farm or plantation  
     owned by the resident.  
 Hardes: clothes; utensils; tools.



Juments: mares.

La profondeur ordinaire: usual depth of land given by grant (40 arpents.)

L'endroit qu'occupe: the place occupied by.

Libre: free

Linge: clothes, particularly washable clothes such as underclothes, shirts, etc.

Lit garni: fully-dressed bed (tester, draperies, etc.)

Lit tout monté: Bed, including mattress; pillows, and often bed linens.

Livre: piece of French money used in colonial Louisiana having the value of  $18\frac{1}{2}$  cents in 1727.

Lors que le cas arrivera: when it happens(that).

Maitre de ses droits: master of his rights; emancipated.

Marchand: merchant.

Médecin: doctor; medical practitioner.

Meres-vaches: mother cows.

Metise: Indian half-breed; mongrel.

Meubles: movable belongings.

Moulin-a-pilon: mill used to husk rice and to crush corn or wheat into meal.

Moyen cochon: medium-size pig.

Mulatre: mulatto.

Murier chenen blanc(Murer en chene blanc): walled with white oak.

Negre: Negro

Negrette: small Negro girl.

Negrillon: small Negro boy.

Parents: relatives.

Par interim: for the interval; in the meantime.

Par nous: by us.(Used in these documents to mean the commandant, so is singular by me.)

Paroisse: parish, ecclesiastical or governmental.

Parrain: god-father.

Partage: division (usually of an estate.)

Passe: passed.

Père: father; senior.

Piastre: word used in colonial Louisiana for the Spanish piece-of-eight; now used for the American dollar.



Piastre-gourde: coin worth about one dollar.  
Poteaux en terre: posts in the ground.  
Pouliche: filly.  
Potre: (could not be defined).

Quand elle aura lieu: when it takes place.  
Quartier: quarter; section.

Real: Spanish coin worth about 12½ cents.  
Reaux(Reales): see Real.  
Reconnaissance: recognition; restatement.

Seur(Sœur): sister.  
Son propre oncle: his own or true uncle, that is,  
    not uncle by marriage.  
Sous-lieutenant: Sub-lieutenant; second lieutenant.  
Suivants: suckling animals, such as calves, colts; etc.  
Sur sol: on the ground.

Tant grandes que petites: both large and small ones.  
Taureau: bull  
Taures: heifers.

Une terre: a tract of land.

Vache: cow.  
Vaisseille: dishes.  
Veuf: widower.  
Veuve: widow.  
Vielle vacherie: old cattle ranch.  
Vulgairement appellée: commonly called.



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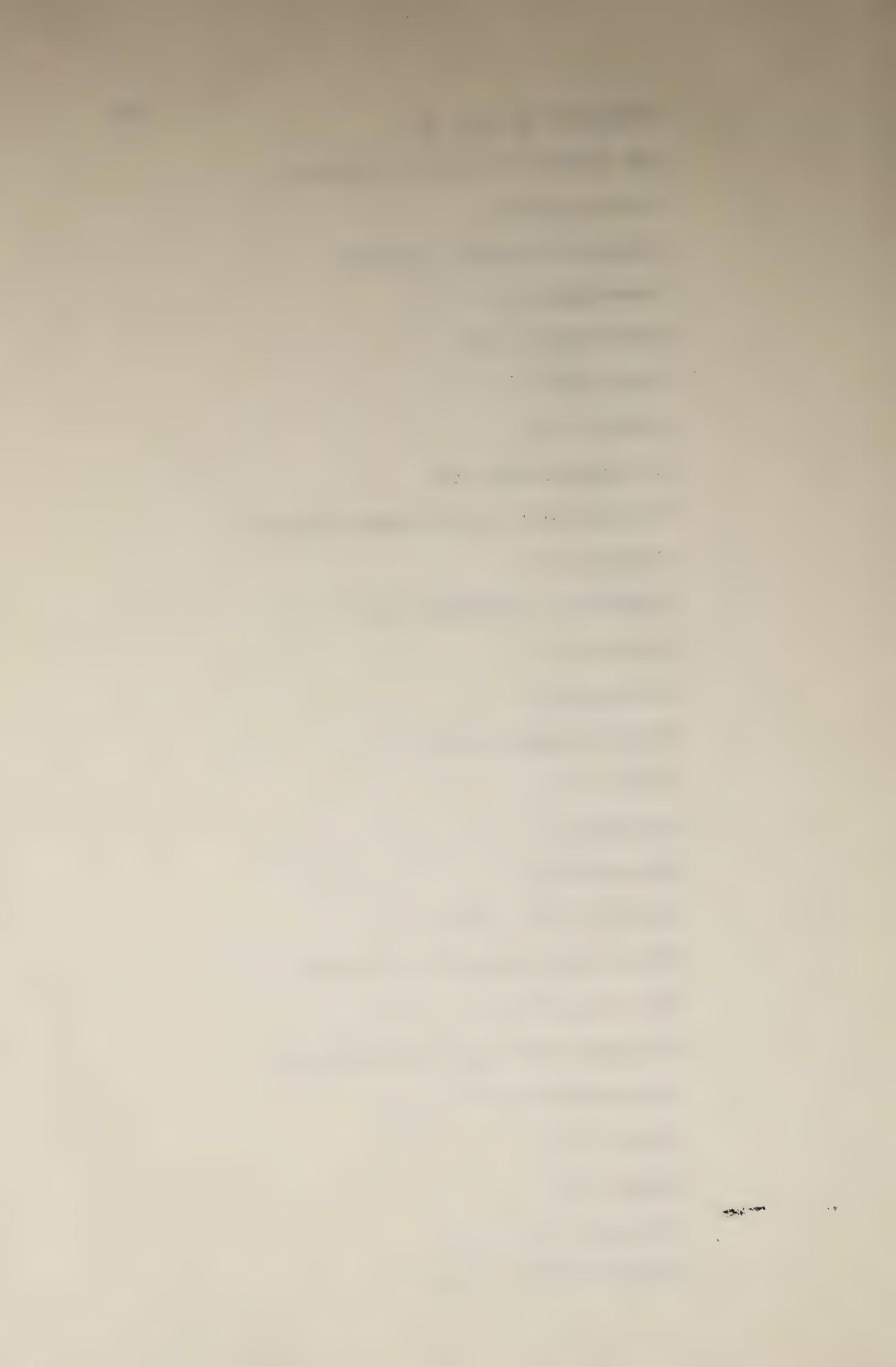
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